

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-40 (Cancelled)

41. (New) An information system for the delivery of real-estate related marketing and/or investment information to a plurality of users over a public network, the system comprising:

one or more databases embedded within a number of computer-readable storage mediums, the one or more databases containing records on a plurality of residential properties in a first geographic region; and

a query device coupled to the one or more databases and configured to perform a differential value search (DVS) on the one or more databases to produce a set of second properties, a differential value search (DVS) being a search based on a difference in value between a property's AVM value and an offer for sale value for the respective property.

42. (New) The information system of claim 41, wherein each record of the one or more databases includes a first field containing an identifier of respective property and a second field containing an AVM value of each respective property.

43. (New) The information system of claim 42, further comprising:

a display device configured to provide display information based on one or more queries of the query system; and

an input/output device coupled to the public network and configured to receive instruction and query terms from consumers using remote terminals for the query device, and further configured to provide display information to respective remote terminals based on queries results provided by the query device.

44. (New) The information system of claim 43, wherein the information system is configured such that each AVM value is modified routinely and at a rate such that the AVM value reflects an estimate designed to be generally current based on changes in the relevant housing market of each property.

44. (New) The information system of claim 43, wherein the one or more databases further includes geographic location information for each respective property in the first geographic region, and wherein the display device is further configured to produce first display information for at least a first remote terminal to enable the first remote terminal to render a map of a second geographic region within the first geographic region, the map including one or more icons each associated with at least one second property and spatially located within the map consistent with the respective geographic location information of the at least one second property, the first display information also having an AVM value associated with at least one second property.

45. (New) The information system of claim 44, wherein the one or more databases further includes a third field containing geographic location information for each respective property in the first geographic region, and wherein the display device is further configured to produce information for at least a first remote terminal to enable the first remote terminal to render a map of a second geographic region within the first geographic region, the map including a plurality of icons each associated with a second property within the second geographic region, and each icon spatially located within the map consistent with the respective geographic location information of the at least one second property, the report also having an AVM value associated with at least one second property.

46. (New) The information system of claim 41, wherein one or more databases contain records on at least one of:

a first set of properties that includes a majority of existing single-family dwellings in a county offered for sale;

a second set of properties that includes a majority of existing townhouses in a county offered for sale; and

a third set of properties that includes a majority of existing condominiums in a county offered for sale.

47. (New) The information system of claim 41, wherein one or more databases contain records on at least one of:

a first set of properties that includes a majority of existing single-family dwellings in each of at least two counties offered for sale;

a second set of properties that includes a majority of existing townhouses in each of at least two counties offered for sale; and

a third set of properties that includes a majority of existing condominiums in each of at least two counties offered for sale.

48. (New) The information system of claim 47, wherein the information system is configured to provide information to consumer terminals sufficient to produce maps of consumer-designated regions with each region containing a plurality of icons spatially located about the designated geographic region consistent with the actual geographic locations of their respective properties.

49. (New) The information system of claim 41, wherein the query device is configured to perform a query based on a user-designated region made against a map backdrop.

50. (New) The information system of claim 75, wherein the information system is configured to provide information to each remote terminal so as to enable them to display a measure of confidence as to the accuracy of a respective AVM value.

51. (New) A method for the delivery of real-estate information to a plurality of users over a public network, the method comprising:

maintaining one or more databases embedded within a number of computer-readable storage mediums, the one or more databases containing records on a plurality of residential properties in a first geographic region, wherein each record of the database includes a first field containing an identifier of each respective property and a second field containing an AVM value of each respective property;

routinely updating each AVM value at a rate such that the AVM value reflects an estimate designed to be generally current based on changes in the relevant housing market of each respective property;

receiving instructions from a consumer using a first terminal over the public network; and

performing a differential value search (DVS) on the one or more databases to produce a set of second properties, a differential value search (DVS) being a search based on a difference in value between a property's AVM value and an offer for sale value for the respective property.

52. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein the one or more databases contain records on:

a first set of properties that includes a majority of existing single-family dwellings in each of at least two counties offered for sale;

a second set of properties that includes a majority of existing townhouses in each of at least two counties offered for sale; and

a third set of properties that includes a majority of existing condominiums in each of at least two counties offered for sale.

53. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein the received query instructions are produced using software that enabled a user of the first terminal to designate a geographic region

using a map backdrop, and wherein the step of performing one or more AVM-related queries uses the hand-designated geographic region as query input.

54. (New) The method of claim 51, further comprising providing a measure of confidence as to the accuracy of a respective AVM value to the first terminal.